

## Submission to Commerce Select Committee on “SOP 152 TO THE CROWN MINERALS (PERMITTING AND CROWN LAND) BILL (DECEMBER 2012)”

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### INTRODUCTION

1. Straterra<sup>1</sup> welcomes the opportunity to submit on Supplementary Order Paper 152, amending the Crown Minerals (Permitting and Crown Land) Bill<sup>2</sup>.
2. Health and safety are paramount for the minerals sector<sup>3</sup>, and must be regulated accordingly. Many lessons have been learned from the Pike River Coal tragedy, and it is imperative that New Zealand draws on them to ensure the highest possible level of H & S in mining operations - underground coal mines and generally.
3. For our part, Straterra has:
  - a. led the formation of a Mine Managers’ Forum to provide a means for Mine Managers across the spectrum of mining activities to share, review and discuss health and safety issues, with the aim of raising standards across industry in New Zealand;
  - b. carried out a review of H & S within the minerals industry, and is implementing recommendations to provide leadership and resources for industry to engage effectively with the High Hazards Unit, and assist in the implementation of the Pike River Royal Commission recommendations.
  - c. submitted to the Royal Commission through the Coal Association. We note that all of the industry’s recommendations are consistent with the report’s recommendations.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. SOP 152<sup>4</sup> is supported, as consistent with the Royal Commission on the Pike River Coal Mine Tragedy report recommendations<sup>5</sup>. Straterra agrees that “better integration of health and safety matters in the permit allocation and management provisions of the principal Act”<sup>6</sup> is desirable.

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<sup>1</sup> Straterra represents by 90 % by value of NZ minerals production, exploration, research, services, and support  
<http://www.straterra.co.nz/About+Straterra>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/a/c/d/50SCCO\\_SCF\\_00DBHOH\\_BILL11798\\_1-Crown-Minerals-Permitting-and-Crown.htm](http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/a/c/d/50SCCO_SCF_00DBHOH_BILL11798_1-Crown-Minerals-Permitting-and-Crown.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Straterra Charter [http://www.straterra.co.nz/uploads/files/our\\_charter.pdf](http://www.straterra.co.nz/uploads/files/our_charter.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> SOP 152 <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/sop/government/2012/0152/latest/DLM4898138.html>

5. Principal among proposed amendments are the reference to a “Health and Safety Regulator”, and requirements to seek the views of this regulator, and for information exchanges between this agency and New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals on diverse permitting matters.
6. Tier 1 permit holders must demonstrate full compliance with H & S regulatory requirements before they can exercise any part of a permit. We are in the belief that this is already the case; however, there is no harm in spelling out the requirement.
7. As a general point, the extra regulatory functions and duties proposed are appropriate, provided they are adequately resourced.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- a) Note Straterra’s support for SOP 152.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://pikeriver.royalcommission.govt.nz/Volume-One---Recommendations>

<sup>6</sup> Explanatory Note to SOP 152